

MDS Mentorship Summary

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Daniela Kroshinsky at Massachusetts General Hospital for my MDS mentorship. My experience was filled with unique and interesting medical dermatology (as well as teledermatology) cases which enabled me to explore common conditions with remarkable clinical features or more complicated cases with diverse clinical management.

What I find exhilarating about medical dermatology is the sleuth work involved in putting together a diagnosis and then working towards an optimal treatment and management plan for patients. In Dr. Kroshinsky's clinic, there are no cook book approaches—each patient is cared for as an individual, regardless if both have the same medical condition. We saw a number of follow ups from her inpatient consult service including several with calciphylaxis and a man who had been admitted for erythrodermic PRP.

I was struck by how smoothly and efficiently Dr. Kroshinsky's clinic ran (with help from her wonderful nurse, Maura), and the extent to which care was coordinated with other practitioners as well as insurers. From making phone calls to get xolair covered for an atopic dermatitis patient to working with other providers for a patient with neurocutaneous sweet's to obtain thalidomide (who had exhausted all other treatment regimens), it was definitely interesting to see the realities of our healthcare system impacting medical care.

However, sometimes the negotiations are with the patient and Dr. Kroshinsky, who is fluent in Spanish, is especially skilled at allaying patients' doubts and fears. During my rotation, we encountered a teenager with MCTD ambivalent about taking her cellcept and the woman wife neurotic excoriations who was very ashamed and tearful about her condition.

What I will take away from this mentorship is certainly some magnificent clinical pearls—I've learned some procedural quick tips, differences between wound dressings and treatment regimens for pemphigus in oral cavity---but what I've also gained is some insight on what it really takes to be an outstanding consultative dermatologist and excellent clinician. Her name is Daniela Kroshinsky.